



NO. 77
MAY '01

ROBINSON
SNEJBERG

STARMAN



ROBINSON
200

dccomics.com

FROM THE SHADE'S JOURNAL
(AS RELATED BY JACK KNIGHT
MUCH, MUCH LATER)...

Jack met with the ghosts of his
brother and father. Then, as was
the norm, he returned to Opal City.
However, this time thanks to the
magic of (also dead) Kent Nelson,
the Opal he returned to was that of
an earlier era...

...Now read on.



DON'T MOVE!
HANDS HIGH!

AND
NOBODY GETS
HURT!



ME, I'LL
TICKLE THE
CLOUDS IF YOU
WANT. LOOK,
NICE AND
HIGH.

ALL I WANT
IS ANSWERS.



I'M NOT
TALKING TO YOU,
STRANGER! TURN
AROUND!

LOOK FOR
YOURSELF!



WHOA.

1951 PART ONE --WHO?

ONE MINUTE I'M IN SOME
SORT OF ETHEREAL AFTER-
LIFE HEAVEN PLACE.

IN A
WORD.

THEN I'M HERE.
OPAL. LIKE I KNOW,
BUT NOT AT ALL.

CLOTHES.
CARS. OLD.

AND THIS JOKER. I
KNOW THE COSTUME...

...THAT MEANS I
KNOW THE YEAR.

AS FOR THE MONTHS,
WEEKS, DAYS AND HOURS
... I'LL WORRY ABOUT
THEM WHEN THE SMOKE
CLEARS.

ROBINSON & GOYER story • ROBINSON words • SNEJBORG artist • OAKLEY letterer • WRIGHT colorist • JAMISON seps • WACKER asst. ed. • TOMASI editor • GOODWIN guiding light
Starman created by Robinson & Harris • Special thanks to Ole Comoll



KEEP FOCUSED, BABY.

1951 BULLETS OUCH JUST AS MUCH AS MODERN ONES.



THAT'S IT, BUDDY.

DANCE FOR ME.



YEAH, MIND ON THE JOB.

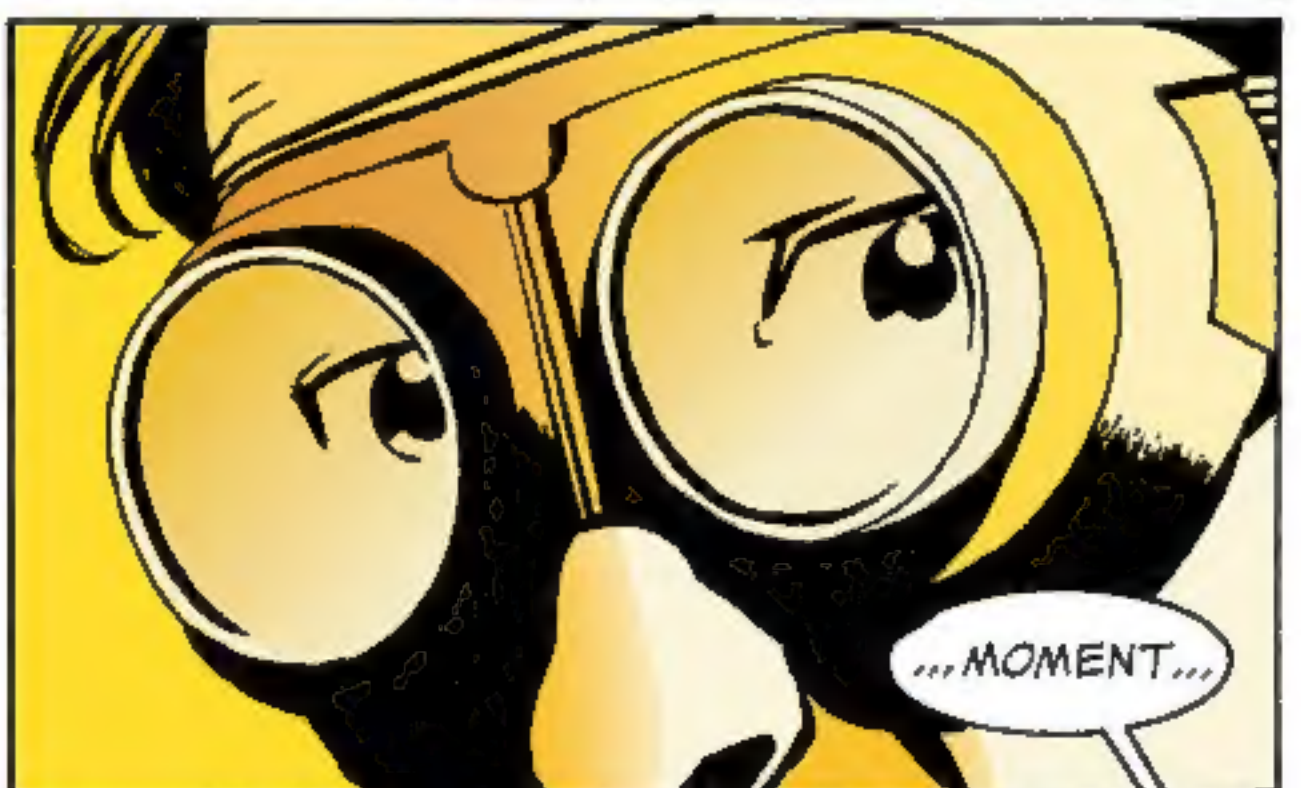
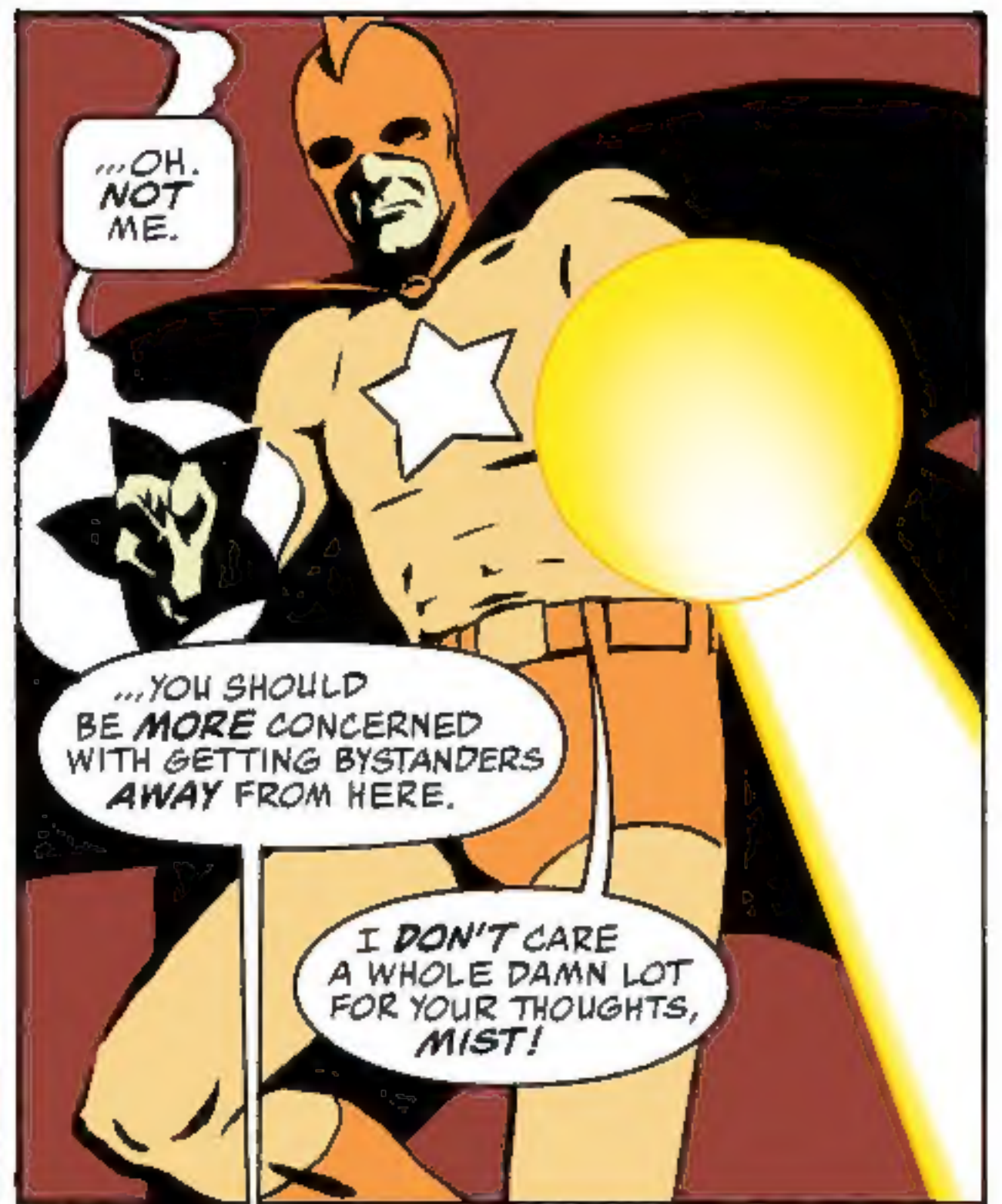
KEEP FROM WONDERING... WHY I'M HERE.

WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO.

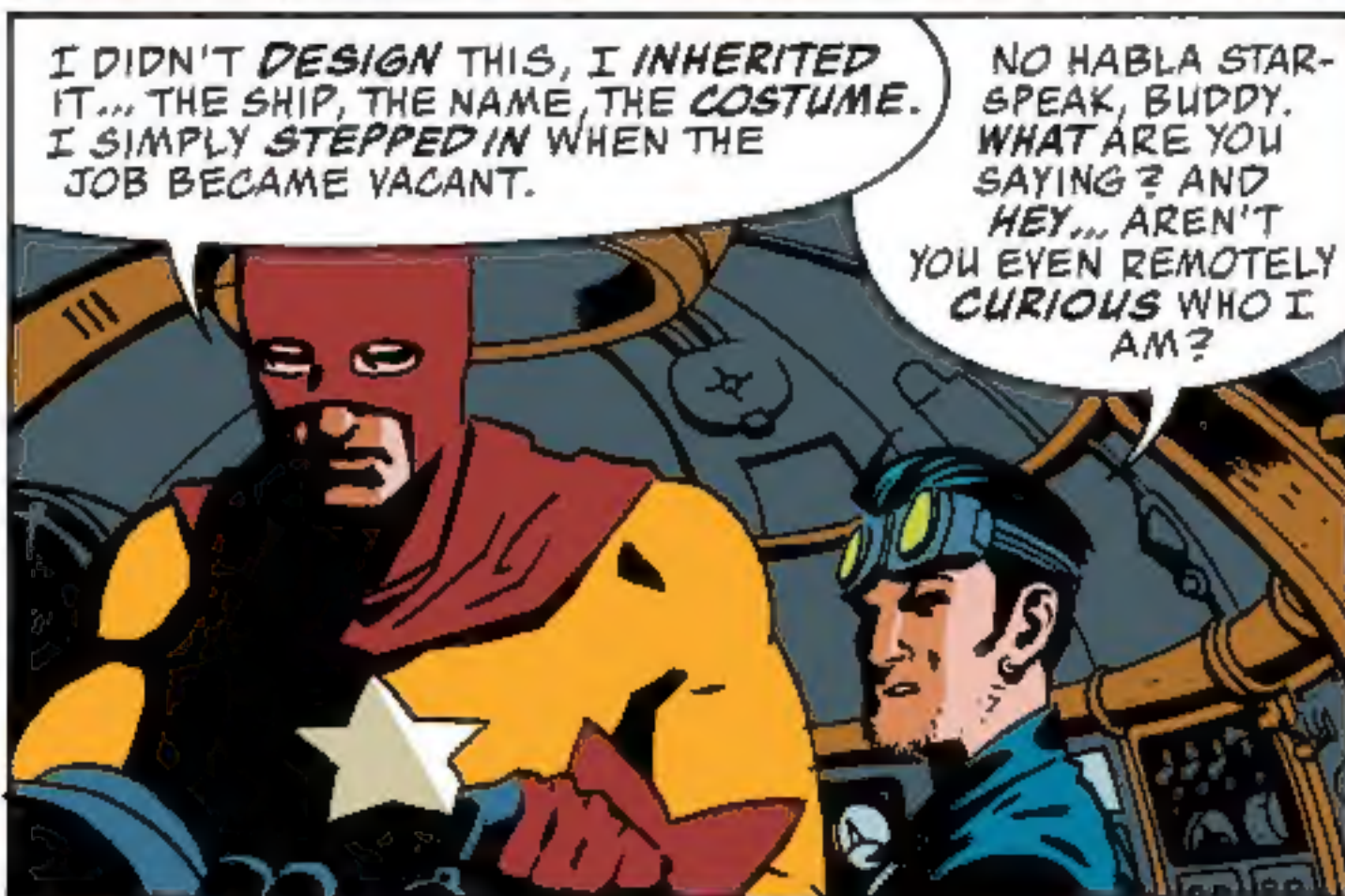
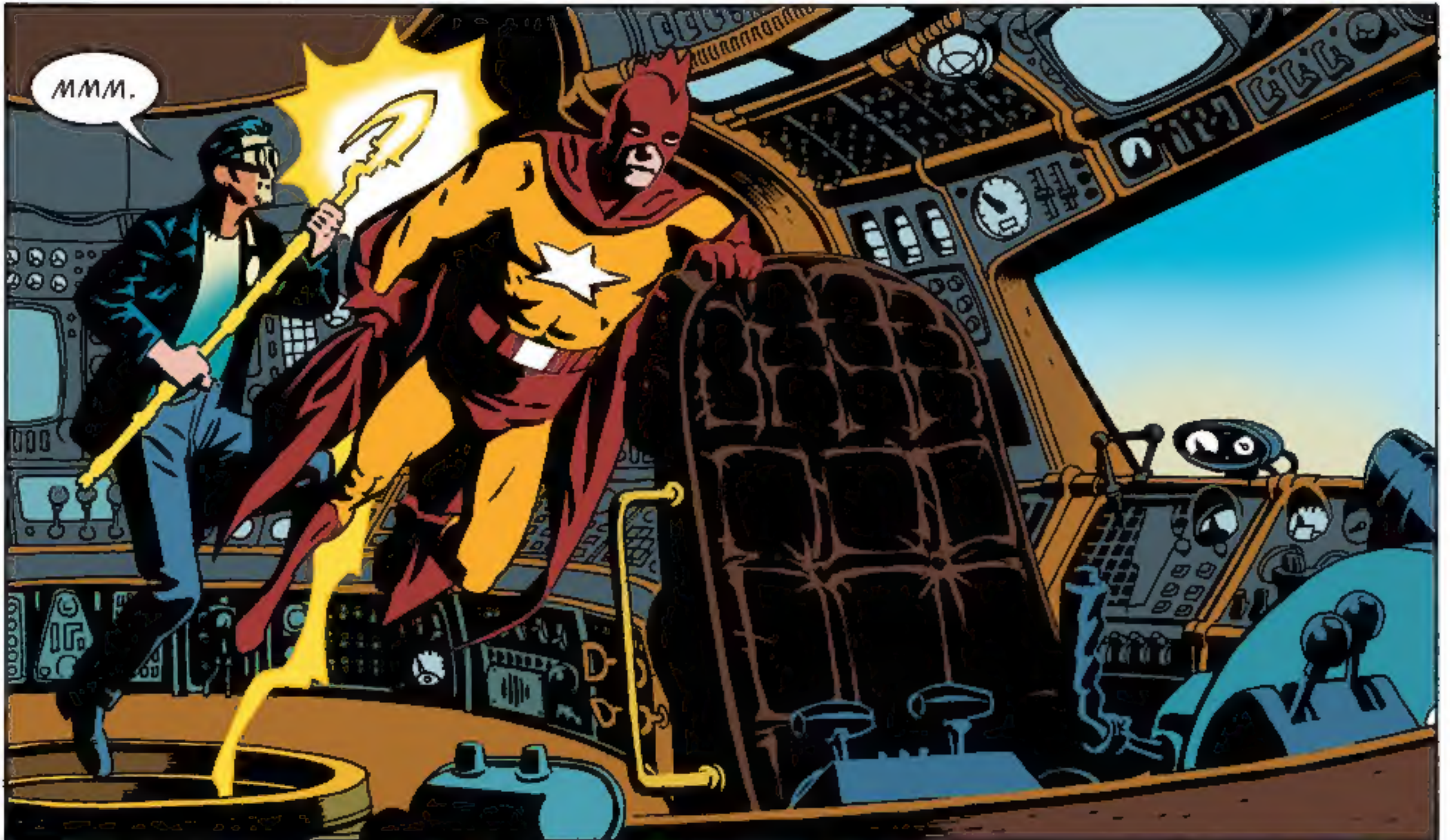
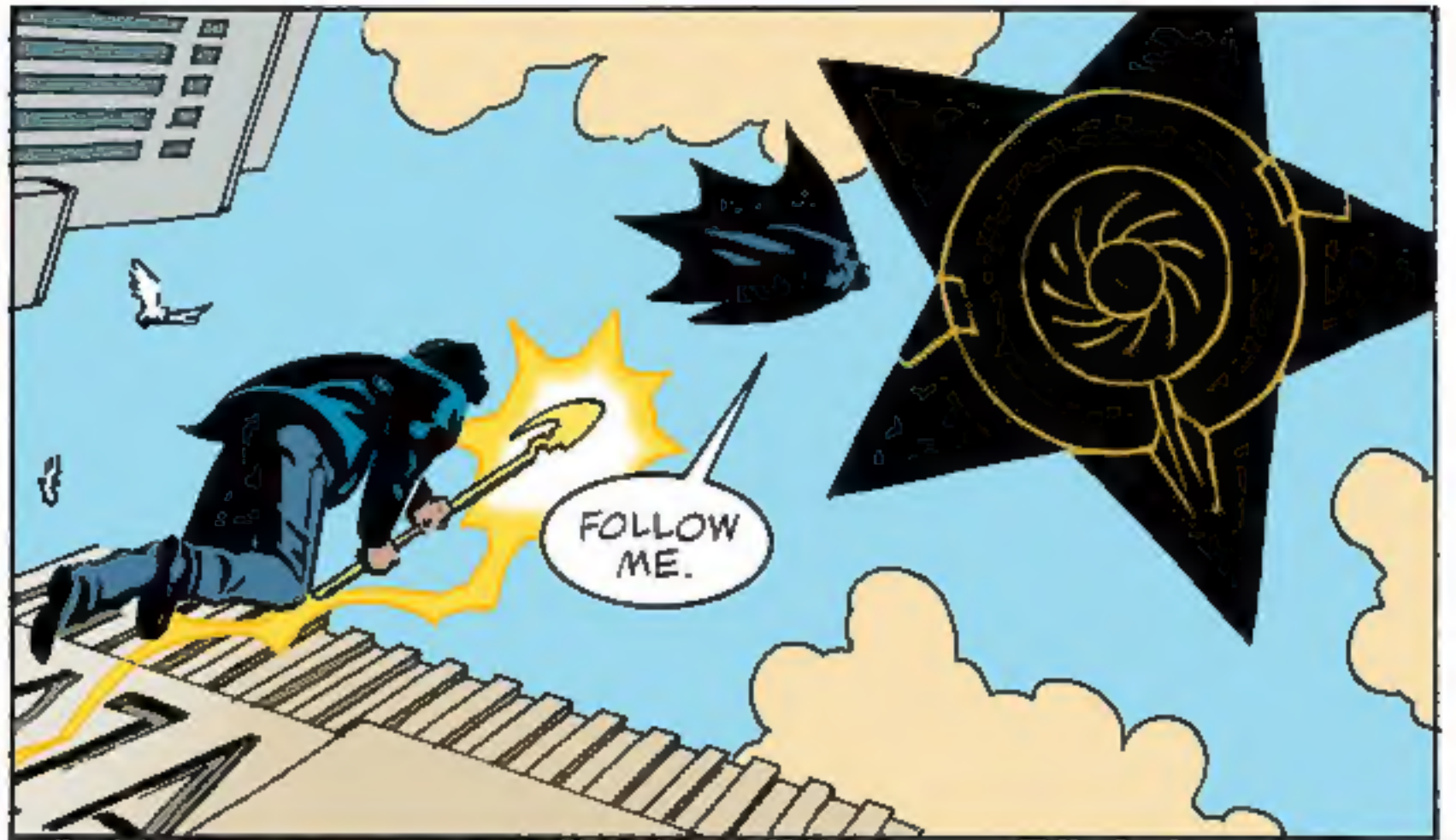


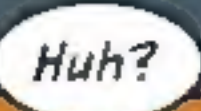
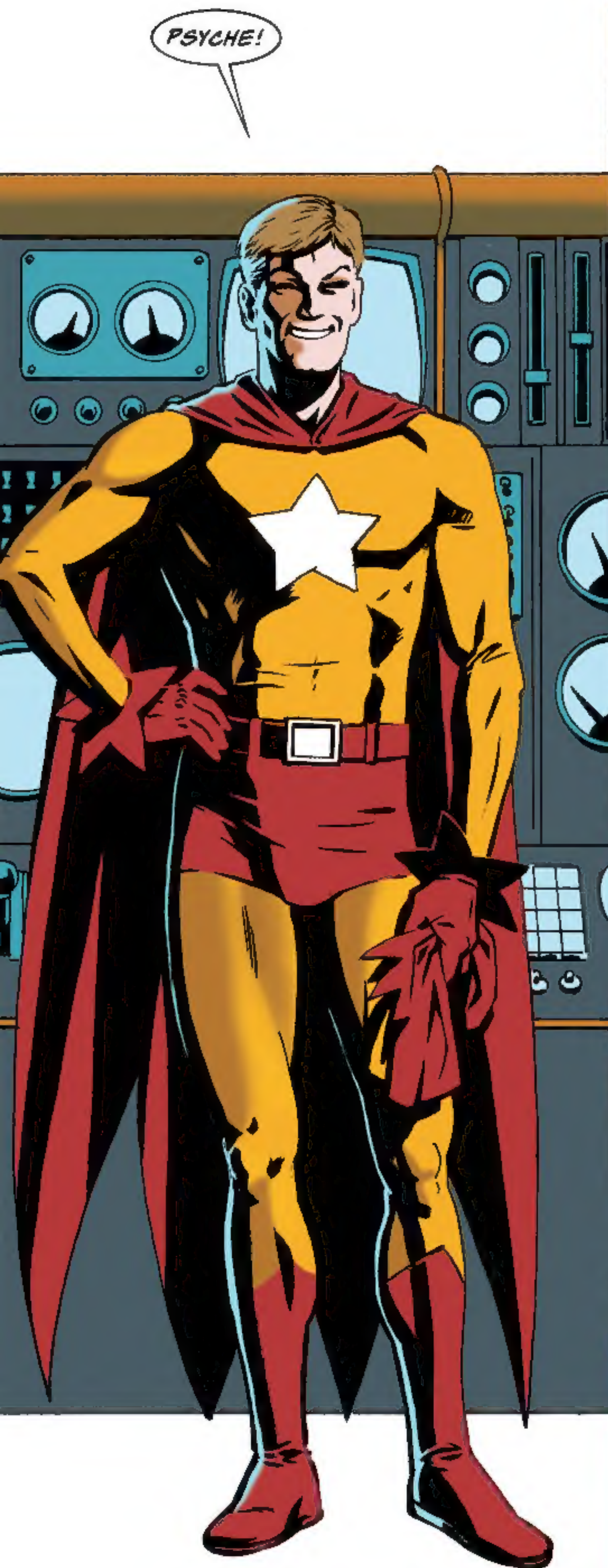
... AND WHO IN THE HELL THE STARMAN OF 1951 REALLY IS.











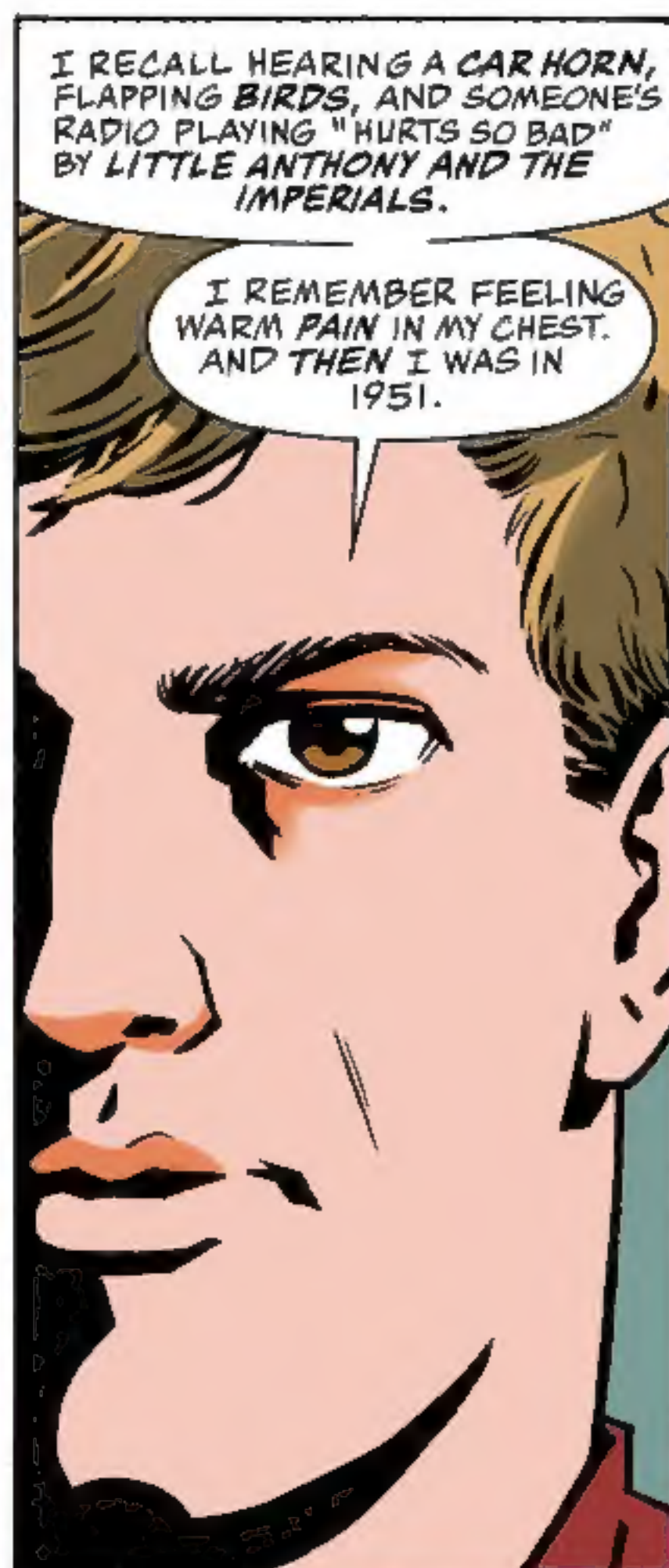


I WAS GOING ON PATROL. WE ARGUED AT DAD'S OBSERVATORY. I FLEW OFF. I WAS STANDING ON A ROOFTOP... AND THEN FOUND MYSELF HERE.



HEY, WHAT IS THAT, ANYWAY? IT'S LIKE DAD'S OLD COSMIC ROD. BUT IT ISN'T.

DAVID. WHAT DO YOU RECALL HAPPENING WHEN YOU CAME HERE? DESCRIBE IT.



I RECALL HEARING A CAR HORN, FLAPPING BIRDS, AND SOMEONE'S RADIO PLAYING "HURTS SO BAD" BY LITTLE ANTHONY AND THE IMPERIALS.

I REMEMBER FEELING WARM PAIN IN MY CHEST. AND THEN I WAS IN 1951.



OH...

OH, BOY. THE THINGS HE RECALLS... HE MENTIONED THEM LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO... THEY HAPPENED AT THE MOMENT OF HIS DEATH.

"A MOMENT IN TIME." KENT NELSON'S GIFT TO HIM, MAYBE?



DAVID DOESN'T KNOW HE'S DEAD.

OR ABOUT ME.

SO JACK, WHY SO QUIET? AND WHAT'S WITH THE GET-UP?



IN, ERR... IN THE FUTURE YOU'LL ONE DAY STOP BEING STARMAN. I'LL TAKE OVER, BELIEVE IT OR NOT. I DON'T DO THINGS LIKE DAD DID.

THAT'S OBVIOUS.

BUT MY WAY SEEMS TO WORK, AFTER A FASHION.



WHY DO I STOP?

EFF...
LIFE GETS
IN THE
WAY.

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.
I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT
YOU. HOW YOU GOT THIS
GIG. HOW LONG INTO THE
YEAR OF THIS MYSTERI-
OUS STARMAN IS IT?



OH, YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT, huh?
THE FACT THAT THE STARMAN OF
1951 LASTED A YEAR AND A DAY?

IT'S BEEN
THAT YEAR,
JACK... ALMOST.
CHRISTMAS IS
PAST. 1952 LOOMS.
IN FACT, IF THE
PAST REMAINS
THE SAME, I HAVE
THREE DAYS
LEFT.



DID DAD SET YOU UP IN THIS ROLE?

NO. YOU HAVE TO
MEET DAD TO UNDER-
STAND HOW IMPOSSIBLE
THAT IS AT THE
MOMENT.

TRUTH IS, I'VE
ONLY BEEN HERE A
MONTH. I TOOK OVER
FROM SOMEONE ELSE.



WHO?

CHARLES
McNIDER.

BEING
A HERO.

AND
WHAT WAS
HE DOING
HERE?



I ARRIVED. IT WAS
EASY TO FIND ME... FLYING
AROUND IN THE RED AND
GREEN, NOT KNOWING
ANY BETTER...

"... AND SO HE
FOUND ME."



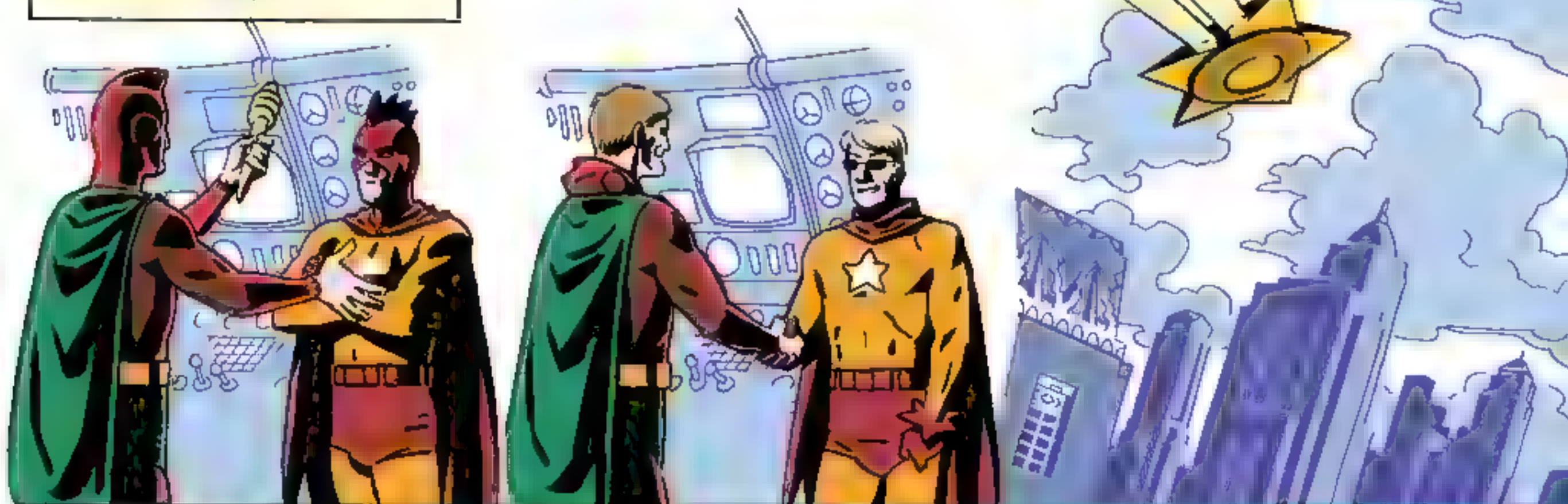
"I EXPLAINED THINGS. AS BEST I COULD."

"...STUFF NO ONE COULD POSSIBLY HAVE KNOWN ON THE OUTSIDE."

"AND ASKED ME TO HELP HIM."

"HE DIDN'T BUY IT AT FIRST, NATCH. LUCKILY, I KNEW STUFF ABOUT HIS LIFE... DR. MID-NITE, HIS SECRET IDENTITY..."

"HE BELIEVED ME."



WHY WAS HE EVEN HERE?

OLD HABITS. HE MISSED "THE LIFE."

"HIS CITY WAS CRIME-FREE. PLUS, HE'D RETIRED HIS DR. MID-NITE IDENTITY AT THAT TIME. BUT HE REALIZED OPAL WASN'T SO CRIME-FREE."

"IN FACT, THIS YEAR THERE'S BEEN SOMETHING OF A CRIME WAVE."



IN DAD'S ABSENCE, IN HONOR OF STARMAN, MCNIDER CREATED THIS NEW IDENTITY.



AND THIS
FLYING
CRAFT?

AND YOUR
POWERS?

MCNIDER GOT THE
PLANS TO ONE OF DAD'S
GRAVITY RODS. HE SHOWED
IT TO BOB CRANE.



WHOA, WHO?

HE WAS
ALSO KNOWN AS
PAUL DENNIS.

STILL NO
BELLS, BRO.

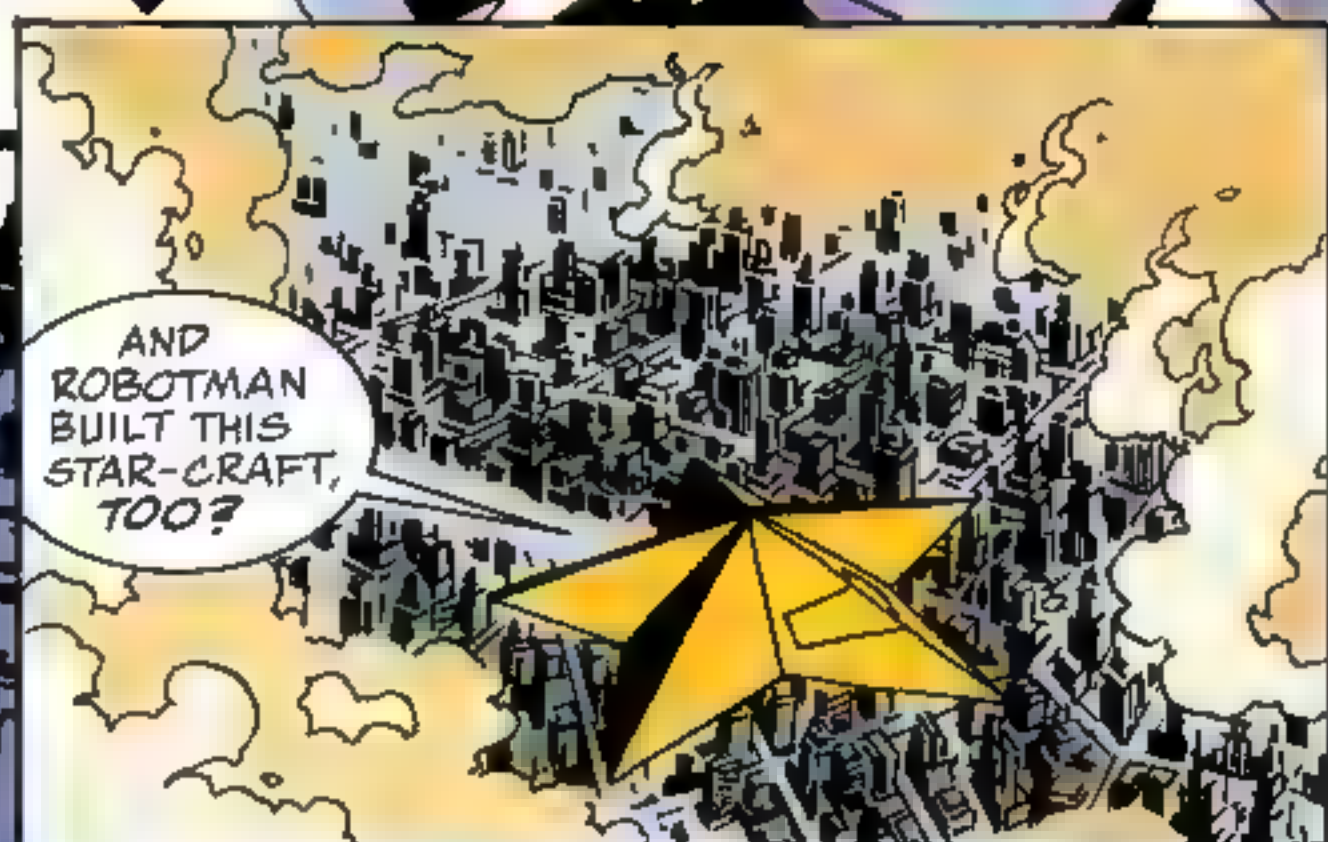
ROBOTMAN.

OH. HIM,
I HEARD OF.



"HE WAS ONE OF MCNIDER'S BUDDIES FROM
BACK IN THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON.

"HE'S A WHIZ WITH MECHANICAL SCIENCE.
HE EXAMINED THE PLANS BUT COULDN'T
CREATE ANYTHING THAT WORKED AS WELL
AS DAD'S MODELS. ANYWAY, HE INCORPORATED
HIS VERSION INTO THIS COSTUME."



AND
ROBOTMAN
BUILT THIS
STAR-CRAFT,
TOO?



NO, THAT
WAS JIM
LOCKHART.

AND WHO
IN THE HELL IS
HE?

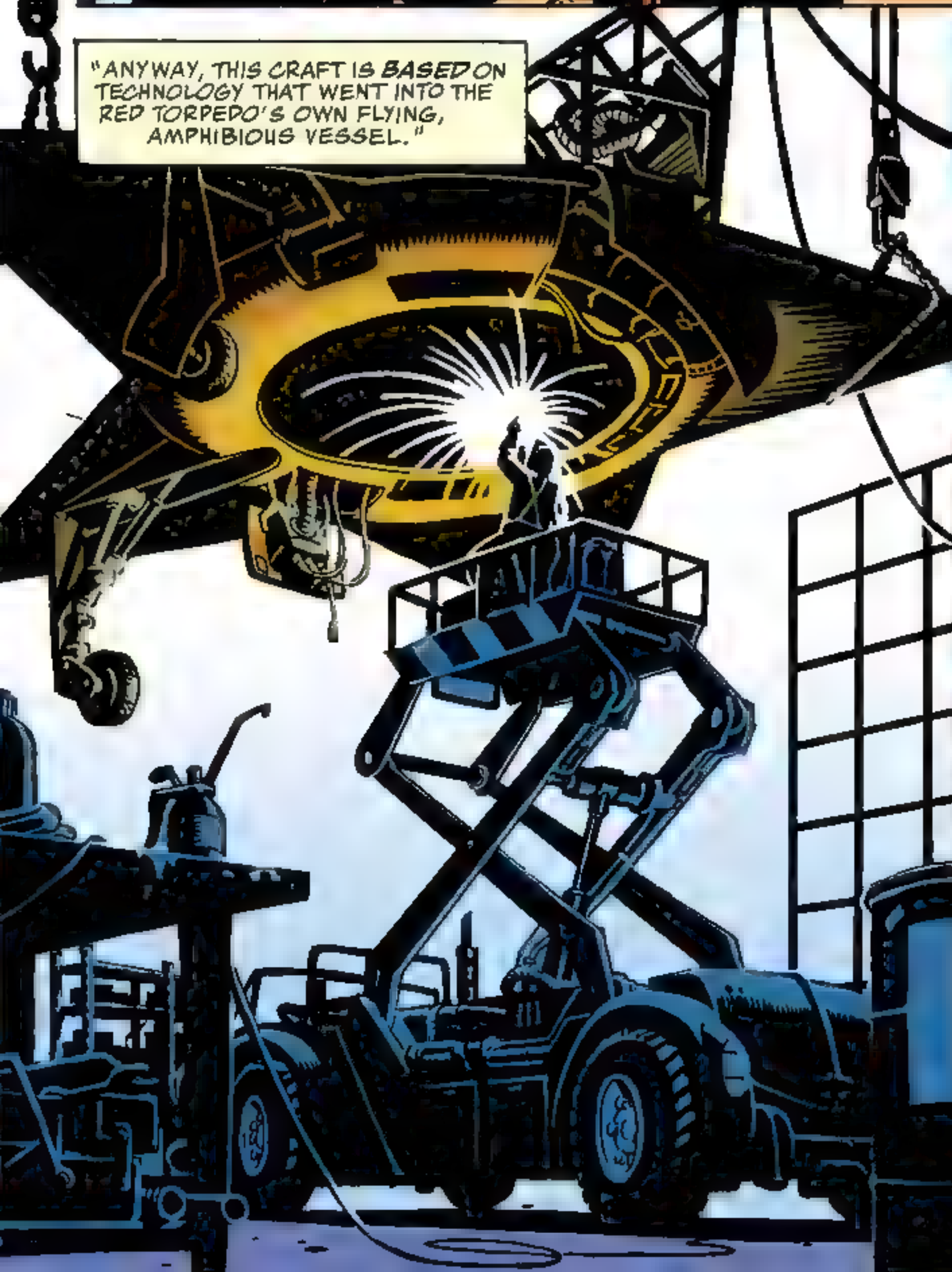
"HE WAS ANOTHER MYSTERY MAN DURING THE WAR. HE FOUGHT CRIME UNDER THE ALIAS THE RED TORPEDO."



NEVER
HEARD OF
HIM.

NEITHER
HAD I UNTIL
CHARLES TOLD
ME.

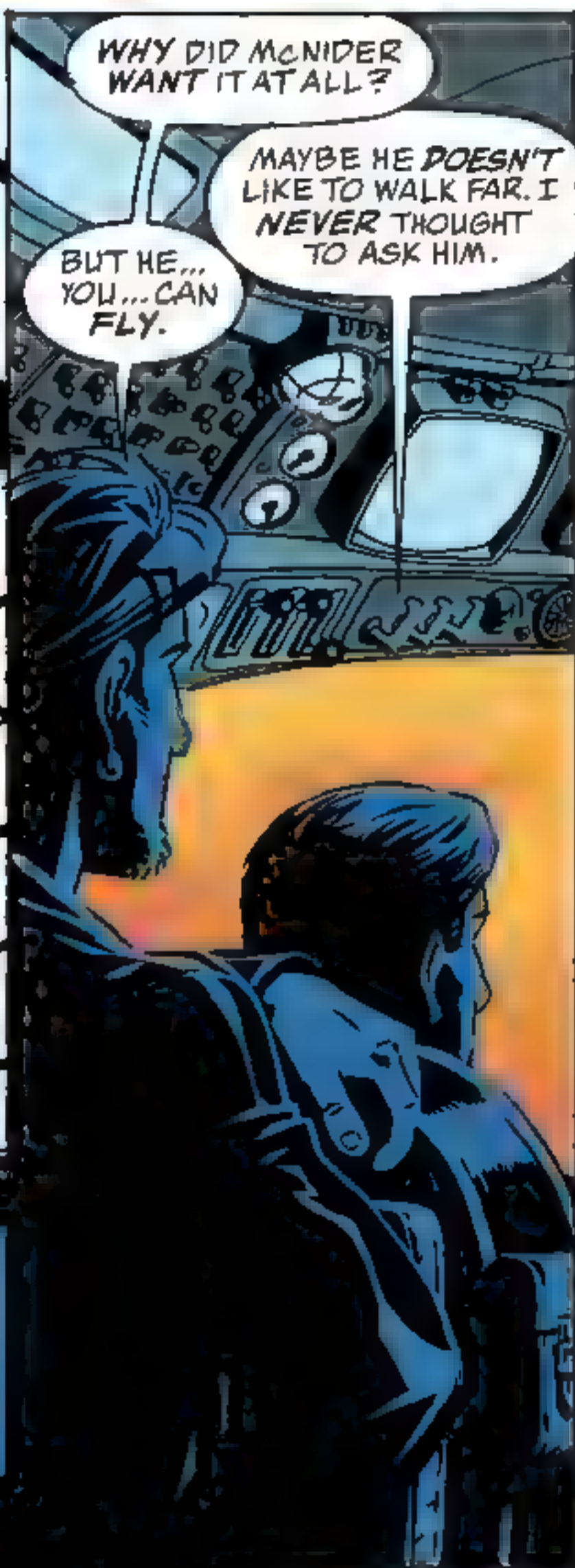
"ANYWAY, THIS CRAFT IS BASED ON
TECHNOLOGY THAT WENT INTO THE
RED TORPEDO'S OWN FLYING,
AMPHIBIOUS VESSEL."



WHY DID MCNIDER
WANT IT AT ALL?

MAYBE HE DOESN'T
LIKE TO WALK FAR. I
NEVER THOUGHT
TO ASK HIM.

BUT HE...
YOU... CAN
FLY.





ONLY FOR SHORT DISTANCES. LIKE I SAID, ROBOTMAN COULDN'T MAKE THE COSMIC ENERGY WORK AS WELL AS DAD HAD.

JEEZ, COULD YOUR BACKSTORY BE ANY MORE COMPLEX?



"THERE ISN'T MUCH MORE TO ADD. MCNIDER TRAINED ME. I WAS HIS SECRET WEAPON... HIS ACE-IN-THE-HOLE."



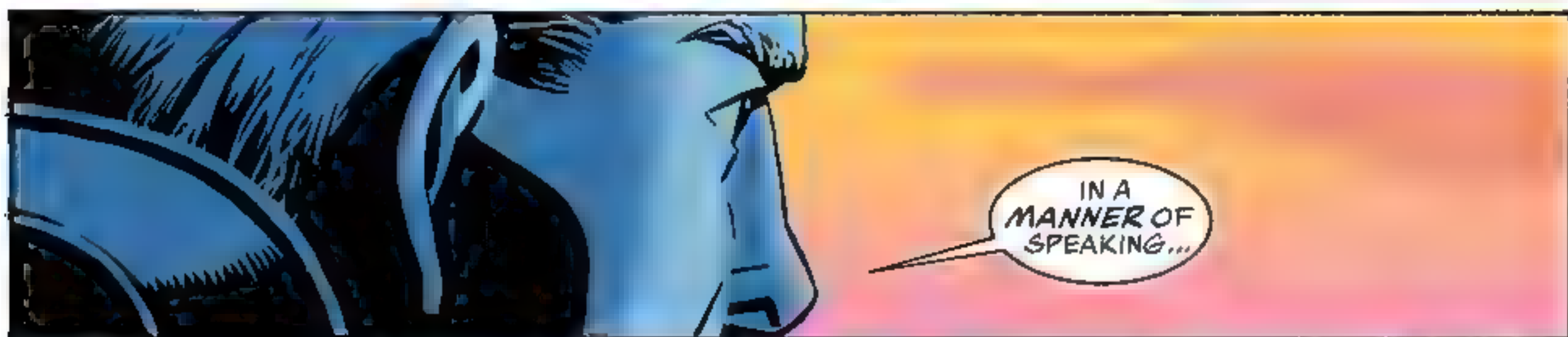
"AND THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED BACK IN MCNIDER'S HOME CITY... IT REQUIRED DR. MID-NITE'S RETURN FROM THE SHADOWS..."



...AND I'VE BEEN GUARDING OPAL EVER SINCE.

I DIDN'T ASK EARLIER, EVEN THOUGH YOU MADE REFERENCE... DAD... "DAD'S ABSENCE"...

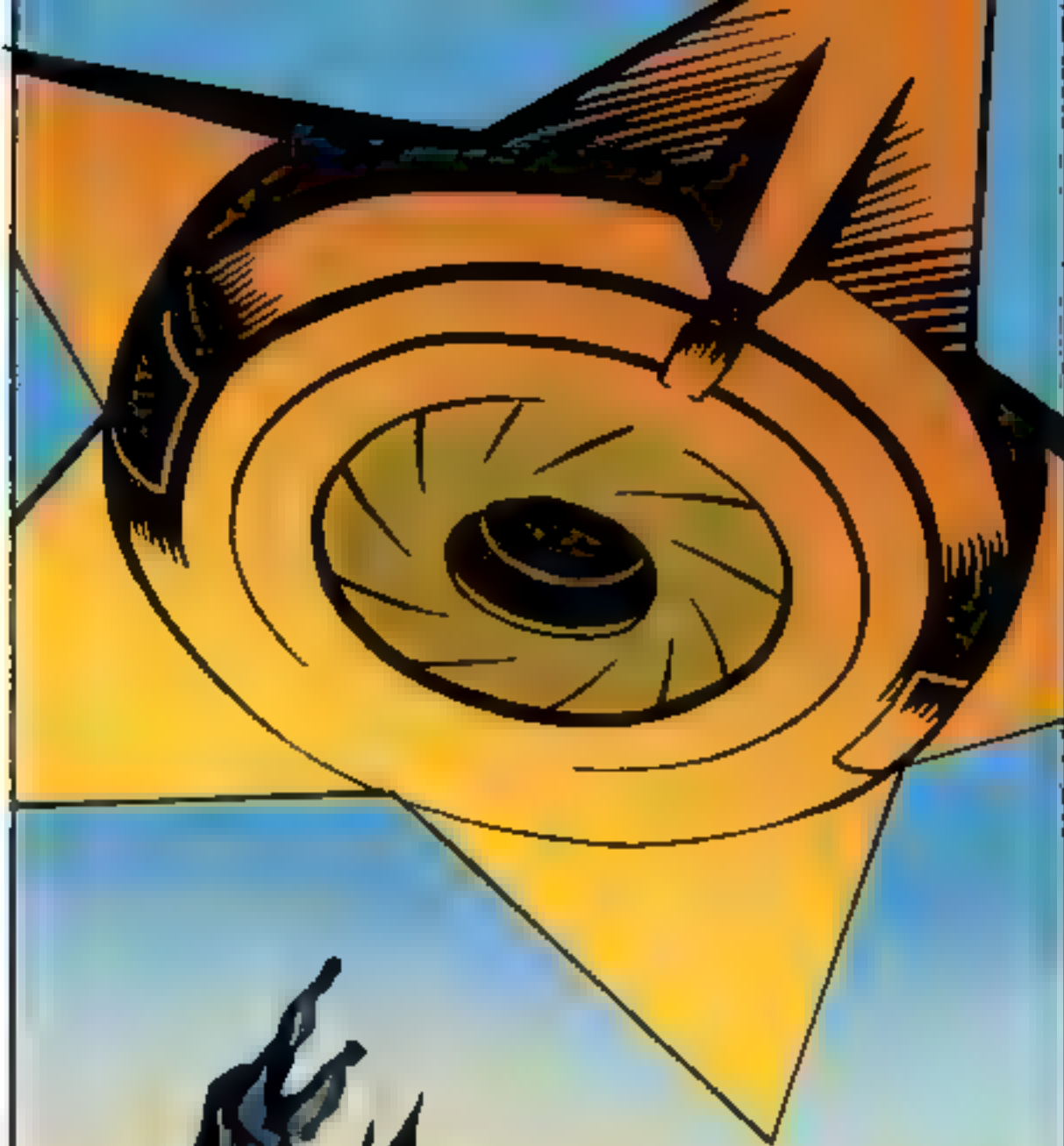
WHERE IS HE? TRAVELING?



IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING...



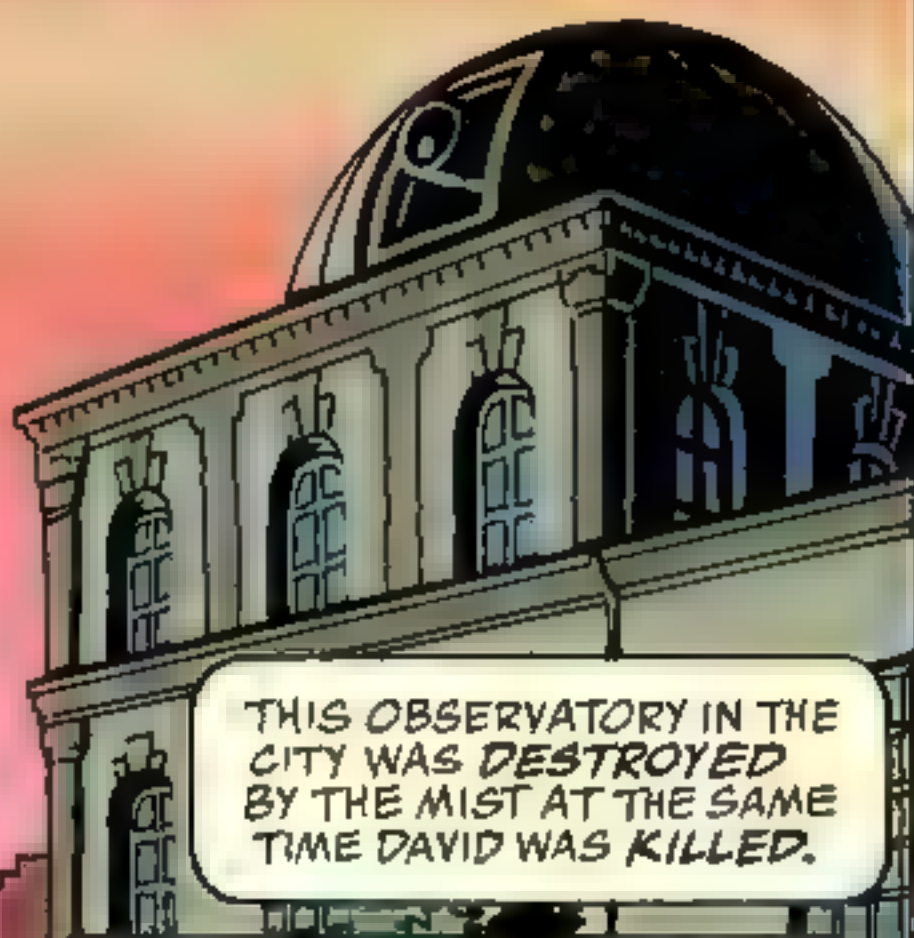
...LET'S PAY HIM A VISIT.



I GUESS I'M IN
SHOCK. ALL THIS...
DAVID... '51...

I SHOULD BE **FLIPPING**
OUT, BUT I'M CALM.

AND NOW I'M ABOUT TO
MEET MY **FATHER** OF FIFTY
YEARS ONCE WAS.



THIS OBSERVATORY IN THE
CITY WAS **DESTROYED**
BY THE MIST AT THE SAME
TIME DAVID WAS **KILLED**.

I RECALL **BEFORE** THAT THERE
WAS A **CRACK** IN THE PLASTER
ABOVE THE DOOR. THAT CRACK
HASN'T EVEN HAPPENED YET.

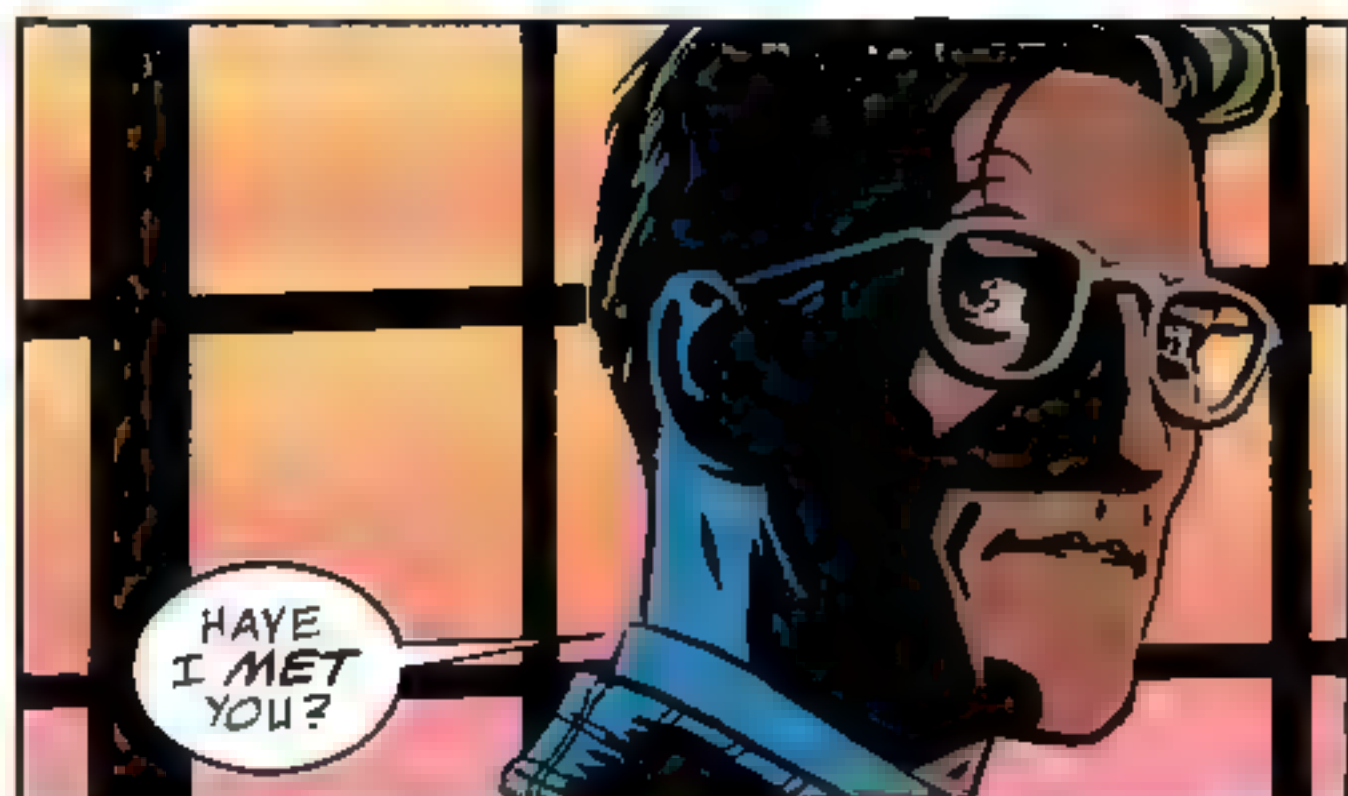
SO MANY THINGS THE SAME,
BUT NOT IN '51.

MAN, I **HOPE** I CAN HOLD
IT **TOGETHER**...



...WHEN I **SEE** MY
OLD MAN'S **FACE**.

HELLO.



HAVE
I **MET**
YOU?



YOU HAVE **NOW**.
I'M... **JACK**.



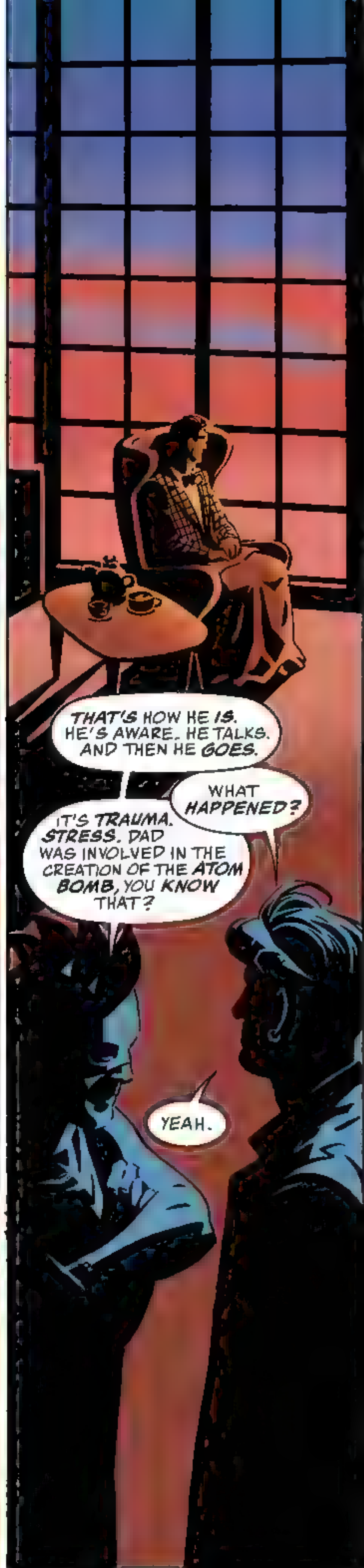
IT'S A PLEASURE. ANY FRIEND OF THE NEW STARMAN IS A FRIEND OF THE OLD ONE. PERHAPS YOU'D CARE TO SIT A WHILE. IT'S SO RARE I GET VISITORS.



WOULD YOU LIKE SOME--



MR. KNIGHT...?

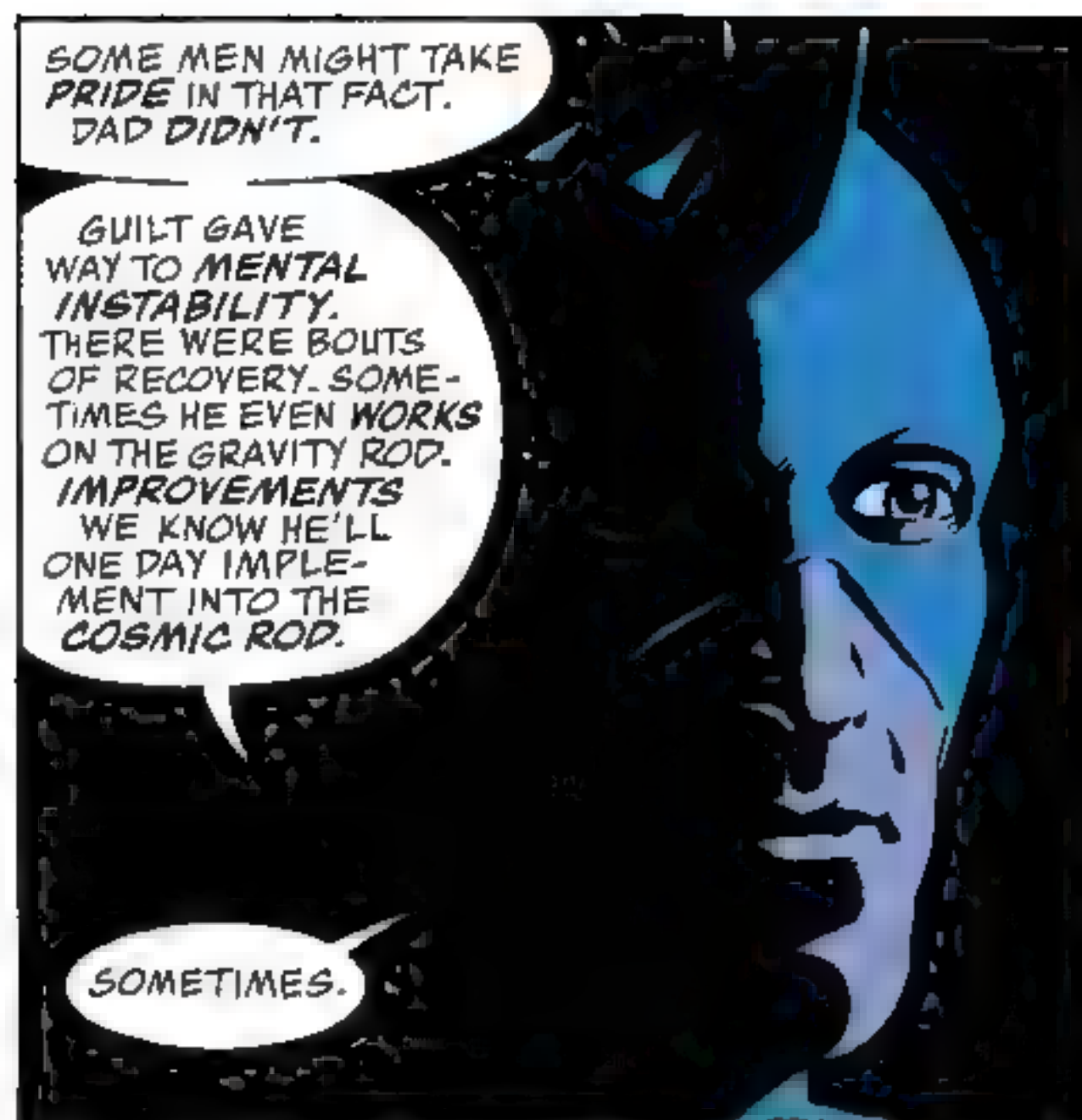


THAT'S HOW HE IS. HE'S AWARE. HE TALKS. AND THEN HE GOES.

WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'S TRAUMA. STRESS. DAD WAS INVOLVED IN THE CREATION OF THE ATOM BOMB, YOU KNOW THAT?

YEAH.



SOME MEN MIGHT TAKE
PRIDE IN THAT FACT.
DAD DIDN'T.

GUILT GAVE
WAY TO MENTAL
INSTABILITY.
THERE WERE BOUTS
OF RECOVERY. SOME-
TIMES HE EVEN WORKS
ON THE GRAVITY ROD.
IMPROVEMENTS
WE KNOW HE'LL
ONE DAY IMPEL-
MENT INTO THE
COSMIC ROD.

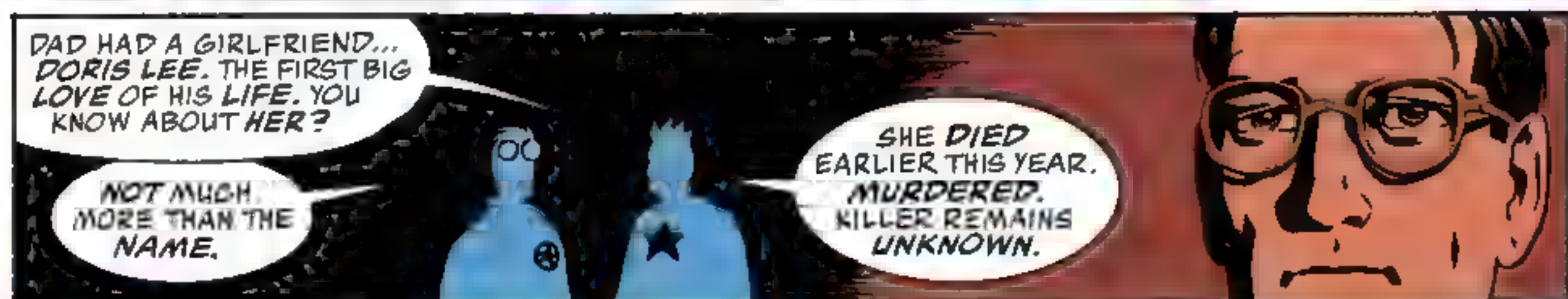
SOMETIMES.



AND
SOMETIMES
HE'S LIKE
THIS.

YEAH. THESE EPISODES WERE
ON THE WANE. THEN SOME-
THING HAPPENED TO FURTHER
MESS WITH HIS HEAD AND NOW
HE'S WORSE THAN EVER.

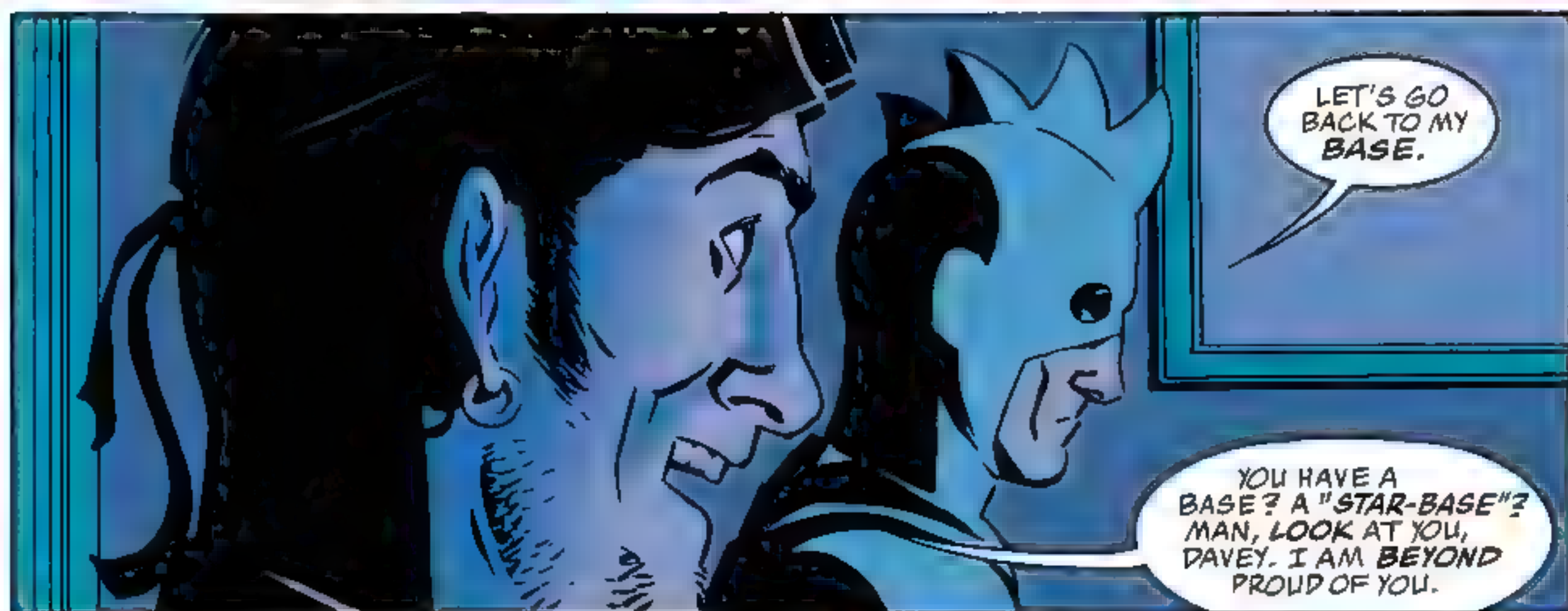
WHAT?



DAD HAD A GIRLFRIEND...
DORIS LEE. THE FIRST BIG
LOVE OF HIS LIFE. YOU
KNOW ABOUT HER?

NOT MUCH.
MORE THAN THE
NAME.

SHE DIED
EARLIER THIS YEAR.
MURDERED.
KILLER REMAINS
UNKNOWN.



LET'S GO
BACK TO MY
BASE.

YOU HAVE A
BASE? A "STAR-BASE"?
MAN, LOOK AT YOU,
DAVEY. I AM BEYOND
PROUD OF YOU.



YOU WERE
NEVER THAT PROUD
OF ME BEFORE. WHAT
HAPPENED BETWEEN THE
TIME I CAME HERE
AND THE TIME YOU
DID?



Err...

I RECONSIDERED
MY POSITION ON THE
MATTER.



HEY, IT OCCURS TO ME, WHY DIDN'T MCNIDER JUST USE DAD'S EQUIPMENT? INSTEAD OF MAKING THE COSTUME, WHY DIDN'T HE SIMPLY WEAR DAD'S...AND USE HIS GRAVITY ROD AT THE SAME TIME?

I GUESS MCNIDER TALKED WITH DAD'S SHRINKS.

DAD IS PRETTY MUCH DONE WITH BEING STARMAN AT THIS POINT IN HISTORY. BEYOND THAT HE EQUATES COSMIC ENERGY WITH ALL SCIENTIFIC ADVANCE. IT'S EVIL AS HE SEES IT IN 1951.

I KNOW THAT SOUNDS WEIRD, BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET INSIDE DAD'S HEAD AT THE MOMENT.

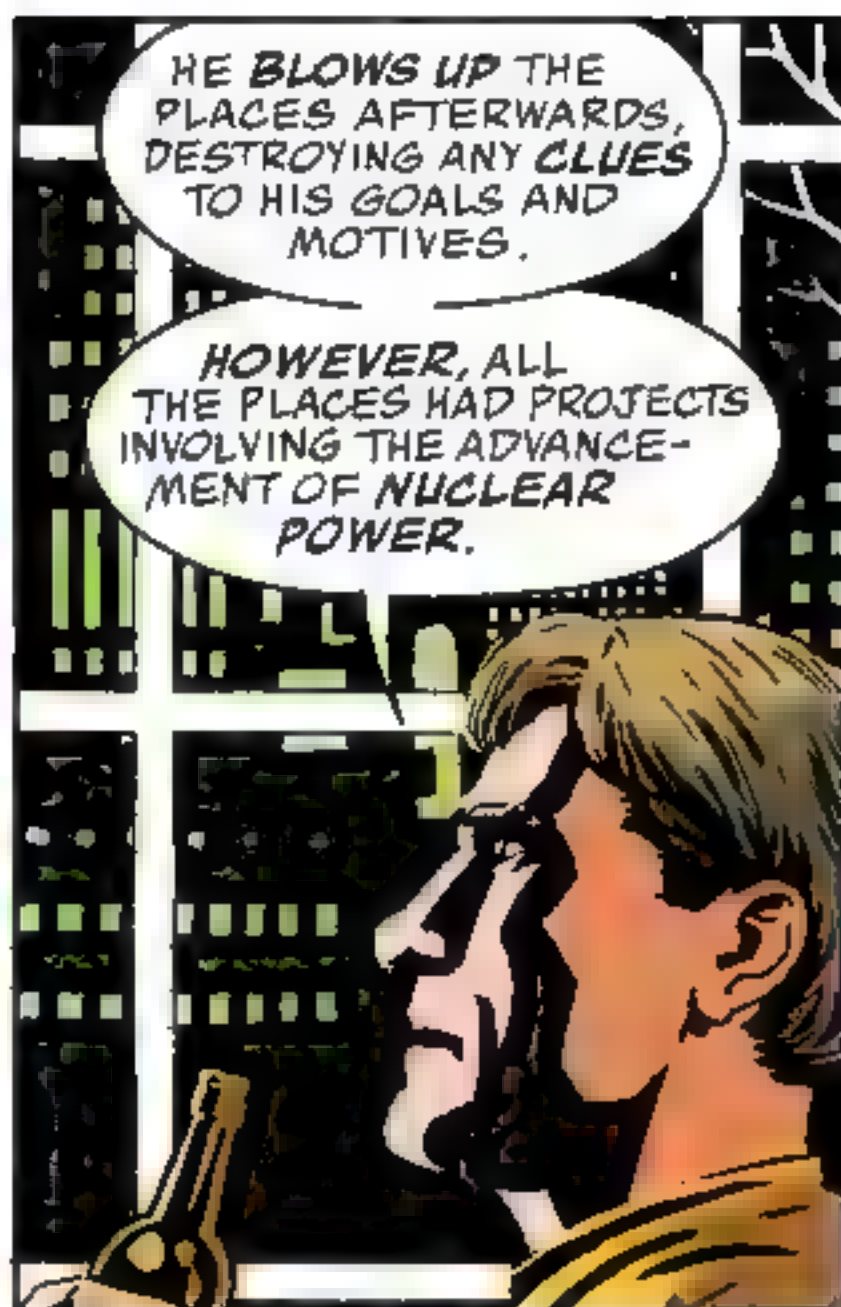
SEEING "HIMSELF" FLYING AROUND... EVEN KNOWING HIS EQUIPMENT WAS BEING USED WOULD POSSIBLY HURT THE CHANCE OF RECOVERY.

DITTO GOES FOR HIM KNOWING WHO ME AND YOU REALLY ARE.

N'HOW DID MCNIDER PAY FOR ALL THIS?

YOU GOT ME. SUPERHEROES FIND MONEY. HOW DID DR. MID-NITE EVEN AFFORD ALL THOSE BLACK-OUT BOMBS?

HE'S BUDDIES WITH TERRY SLOANE. I KNOW THAT, I MET HIM. MAYBE TERRY FRONTED HIM THE DOUGH.



TYLER CHEMICALS.

WHERE I FOUGHT CULP.

DÉJÀ VU. THEN ... MY PAST
THAT'S NOW THE FUTURE.
NOW ... MY PRESENT THAT'S
THE PAST.

CRAZY.

WE GO INTO BATTLE.
AND ME, I'VE GOT TIME
RIDDLES IN MY HEAD.

NO.

WE GO INTO
BATTLE, AND
ME, I'VE
GOT ONE
QUESTION:

WHY AM I EVEN HERE?

IN THE AFTERLIFE, DAD SAID
THERE WAS ONE MORE TASK
AHEAD OF ME.

WHAT IS IT I
HAVE TO DO?

THIS
WAY!!

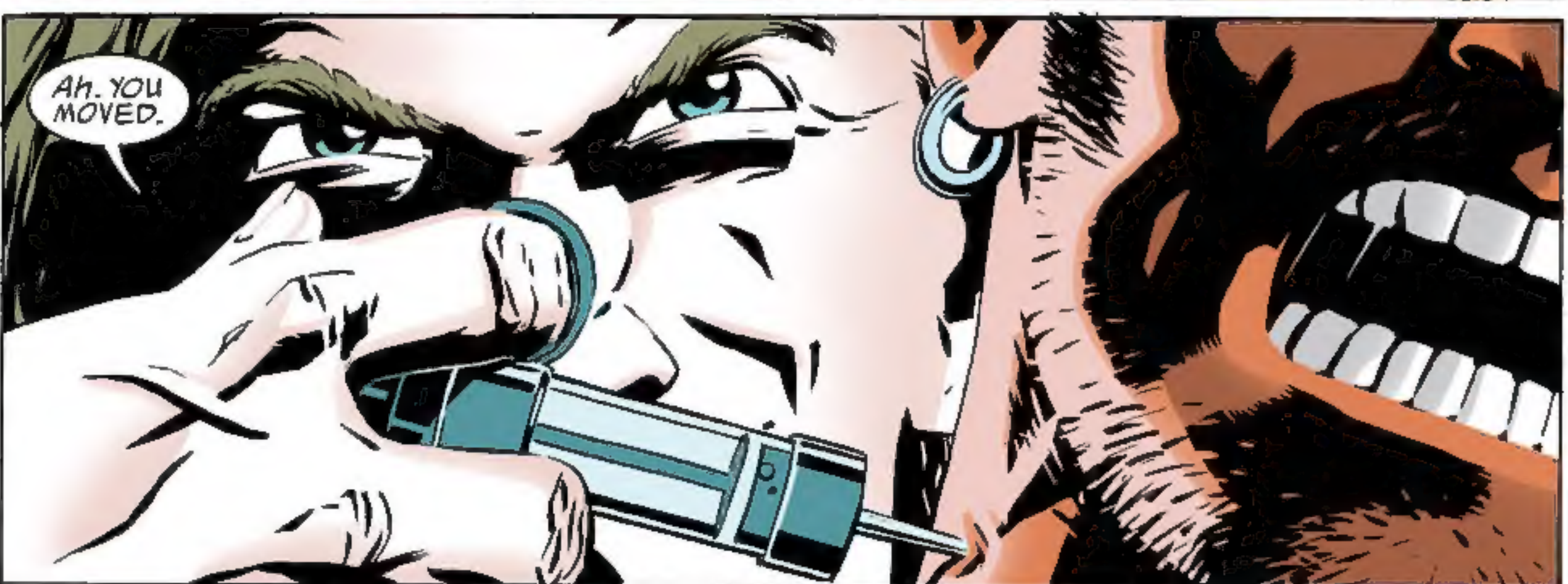
EXIT

TIME'S
UP,
MIST!

EXIT

HOURMAN?

WHAT IN
GOD'S NAME?





WHAT?...

WHAT?...

WHAT?...

WHAT?...

WHAT?...

WHAT?...

WHAT?...

WHAT?...

WHAT?...

WHAT?...

WHAT?...

WHAT?...

WHAT?...

— TO BE —
CONTINUED!

Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT
AWESOME
LOOKS LIKE".

DCP